EFFECTS OF INSECURITY ON EDUCATION IN MANGU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA.

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Abstract

Insecurity is at an alarming rate in Nigeria with a severe danger not only on the educational sector but on other parts of the economy. It affects educational development in the country. Most educational institutions have been turned into field of kidnapping for bandits and insurgents in Nigeria. This paper examines the effects of insecurity on the educational development in Mangu local government area of plateau state, Nigeria. A total of 300 people made up of 200 students and 100 teachers responded to a validated questionnaire designed for the study. Three research questions where formulated to guide the study. The research questions were analyzed using mean score of 2.50. Major findings of the research shows that unemployment/poverty, land ownership, weak security system among others are the causes of insecurity in the study area. It was discovered that loss of lives, closure of schools, students drop out of school and abduction of students are the main effects of insecurity in the educational development of Nigeria. The paper recommends that government should revisit poverty alleviation programs and create employment opportunities for unemployed youths.

Introduction

The overriding objective of the educational system in every nation is to produce an enabling learning environment which will facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, development of skills, positive attitudes and good behavior in students thereby giving rise to national development. However, the enabling (conducive) environment for the learning to take place have been overtaken by insecurity which has become something of great concern to all well-meaning citizens. Nigeria as a country has come under the wave of insecurity in recent times as a result of the economic malaise and weak governance that have led to frustration among its citizens. Hence, insecurity is now a threat to human existence in Nigeria. It has raised tension and anxiety among the citizens, taking different dimensions and shapes. Worthy of mention is the spread of Kidnapping, Banditry, Boko Haram, Fulani Herdsmen, Gruesome Murder, Rape, Cultism, Ritual Killing, Bribery and Corruption, Child Trafficking, etc. causing more fear in the lives of the people.

Panle (2022), asserts that insecurity is no longer novel, it is at its peak and has become a bore in the bonnet as a result of poverty, illiteracy, uneven distribution of resources, discrimination, religious intolerance and cultural differences. These waves of insecurity constitute great obstacle to flourishing local business and foreign investment, socio-economic development, political stability, conducive learning environment and communal trust, thereby, destroying the lives and properties, making people to leave their comfort zones in search of safety. This study is therefore, investigates the effects of insecurity on the educational development in Mangu LGA of Plateau State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

The concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as absence of safety; danger, hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection. Mangkut (2022) asserts that insecurity is the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger. Gotan (2020) on the other hand sees insecurity from two perspectives. First, insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat to danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly, insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that

is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. Hence, those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also vulnerable to the threat and danger when it happen+s.

There is high level of insecurity in Nigeria which ranges from theft to organize armed robbery, kidnapping and demanding for ransom, assassination, repeated invasion, social injustice, rising cost of living and vandalization of private and public properties. Kidnapping of students from their schools is becoming a fad in this country. For example, forty two students from government science college Kagara, in Niger State were kidnapped from their hostel and those who tried to escape were shot dead. In April 2014, two hundred and seventy-two school children were abducted from Chibok, Borno state. Similarly, in May 2017, suspected militants abducted six students from model college Igobi in Epe, Lagos State. Also in 2018, at least one hundred and ten students were kidnapped from government boys secondary school Kankara, Katsina State. Similarly, on September 22, 2023, more than 24 students of the Federal University Gusu were abducted in the early hours of Friday after bandits invaded the sabon-Gida community of the Bungudu local government area of Zafara state. Another was on October 3, 2023, where five female students of the Federal Univeristy Dutsen ma Katsina state were kidnapped,

The activities of these hoodlums have forced many children to abandon school. Bello (2022) reports that it is not just the pupils or students of the targeted schools that end up being affected, teacher and others are also affected. Bwala (2012) maintain that as a result of Boko Haram activities in Damaturu metropolis in Yobe State, school enrolment in the region has gone down by 28 percent more than any other region in the country. In the same vain, Salleh (2011) affirms that the constant attacks on the school children have made it even harder for teachers and other stakeholders to persuade parents to allow their children stay in school in the northern region of this country. The issue of insecurity in northern Nigeria has compelled school children to drop out of school.

Criminal activities perpetuated in Nigeria are always attributed to youths who dropped out of school. Sadly, the school drop out are on the increase because of insecurity in the country. The scenario tends to suggest that the future of the Nigerian child who dropped out of school is in serious danger and hence, needs a very serious attention.

Abdullahi and Terhamba (2014) maintained that there has been worries over the present insecurity in the country. No one can deny the fact that economic activities, movement of people, goods and services have been seriously hampered by the activities of terrorist from 2009 to date. They further maintained that the worst of it all is that pupils and students of school age in their millions are out of school in Damaturu, Yobe State, due to insecurity. This also applies to Mangu LGA because of the recent happening. This is due to frequent bombing, killing of young and old, male and female including school pupils, burning of worship centers, schools and sound of gunshots. Udeoba and Eze (2021) noted that in the southern part of Nigeria, criminal herdsmen are holding the south west, south-south and south-east to ransom. They have taken over forests, acting as kings in other people's land. They take their cattles everywhere and the animals eat up farm crops of helpless farmers. While some elements among them are engaged in kidnapping for ransom, sexual abuse and rape, others are just thirsty for blood as they visit villages with mayhem for having the audacity to complain about their impunity. It must be pointed out that insecurity discourages investments as it makes investment unattractive to business men and women. This is evidence because some business men and manufacturers have to relocate from the danger zones to other peaceful areas. Insecurity is a major factor hindering Nigerian's development thereby affecting the country's economic progress. Insecurity has destroyed the existing infrastructure and also prevents the development of infrastructure and safe environment for educational activities.

Theoretical Framework

This paper adopted the frustration-aggression theory propounded by John Dollard in 1939 and further develop by Neal Miller, Leonard Dood, Orval Mowrer and Robert Sears. The major assumption of this theory is that aggression is always a consequence of frustration, and that the occurrence of aggressive behavior always presupposes the existence of frustration leading to some forms of aggression (Dollard , Miller, Doob, Mowrer& Sears 1939). They also defined frustration as an interference with the occurrence of an instigated goal response at it's proper time in the behavior sequence (Dollard, et al, 1939). The interrogation and disputations that the perspective generated led one of the proponent to intervene with some modifications of the central thesis. Thus, Miller (1941) noted that it was too general to assume that frustration must always lead to aggression or that is always propelled by frustration. His intervention led

to the second lap of the hypothesis which reflected a more acceptable reality that frustration produces instigations to a number of different types of response, one of which instigation to some form of aggression. However, some years later, a significant modification came from Berkowitz(1989) who states that aggression can be driven by inherent personal benefits to the aggressor and not necessarily by pass wrong doings and that people are more akin to attack when they discover that they are willfully sabotaged or denied what it's legitimately theirs than when the interference is an accidental occurrence. He says frustration are aversive events and generate aggressive inclinations only to the extent that they produce negative effects.

The high level of insecurity across the country, most especially in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State is largely driven by frustration and struggle to generate economic assets. The alarming rate of insecurity such as banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery, cattle rustling, rape, physical attacks and encroachment on farms are influenced by frustration Mangkut (2022). Also Fererabend and Feirauben (1972) states that aggression is a result of frustration which results from an individual's inability to attain his goals. Accordingly, insecurity is the product of aggressive behavior which results from issues such as poverty, and unemployment among others. Insecurity in the country is therefore caused by the need of the disgruntled elements of the society to get out of poverty and climb up the ladder in socio-economic considerations.

Insecurity is now a threat to human existence. Hardly a day passes by without the mention of insecurity in the national dailies. It has raised a lot of tension and anxiety among the citizens. As a result, people are afraid of personal safety, fear from personal freedom, physical harm and uncertainty of the impending dangers. People are suffering from hunger. Thousands of children don't attend classes for the fear of insecurity, kidnapping, conflict, armed robbery, rape, human trafficking, insurgence and banditry. These nefarious and precarious activities are carried out by mostly the youths who are seen as the leaders of tomorrow. Thousands of people have been killed and many people fleeing their homes into neighboring communities looking for safety of their lives. What these attackers have been able to communicate the Nigeria citizen is fear, danger, distress, panic and misgiving of lack of government effort to protect the citizens as enshrined in the Nigeria constitution.

The speed with which insecurity is growing in Nigeria and the merciless ways that lives of innocent citizen are being wasted are worrisome. People are burdened on a daily basis with psychological and emotional trauma resulting from gory sights of lifeless and mutilated bodies of loved family members close associates and colleagues littered on the streets. Apart, a stable economic and education cannot be guaranteed in the face of insecurity. The problem of this study is to investigate the effects of insecurity on the educational development of students in Mangu LGA of plateau state, Nigeria

The major objective of this study is to determine the effects of insecurity on the educational development of students in Mangu Local Government Area. Specifically, the study is to:

1. Find out the causes of insecurity in Mangu Local Government Area.
2. Find out the effects of insecurity in Mangu Local Government Area.

What are the causes of insecurity in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State?

What are the effects of insecurity in Mangu LGA?

What are the remedies to the security challenges in Mangu LGA?

Methods

A survey research design was adopted for the study. A survey research design according to Awotunde and Ugundulwa (2004) involves asking questions, collecting and analyzing data from supposedly representative members of the population in view to determine the current situation of the population with respect to one or more variables under study. The population is made up of 3000 senior secondary school students and teachers in Mangu LGA of plateau state. The sample for the study is made up of 300 respondents consisting of 200 students and 100 teachers. The instrument for data collection was a questionnaire titled "effects insecurity on education in Mangu LGA of plateau state questionnaire" (EIEMQ). The instrument was first validated by two experts. The reliability of the instrument was determine using Cronbach's alpha method to determine the internal consistency of the items in the questionnaire. The reliability coefficient of 0.75 was obtained. Research questions were analysed using mean

score. A mean score of 2.50 and above was interpreted as accepted while a mean score of less than 2.50 was interpreted as rejected.

RESULTS

What are the causes of insecurity in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau

State?

S/NO	STATEMENTS	SA	A	UN	D	SD	N	$\bar{X}$	Remarks
1.	Weak security system	120	130	21	20	4	300	4.17	Accepted
2.	Unemployment / poverty	138	145	-	10	17	300	4.32	Accepted
3.	Porous borders	120	118	50	12	-	300	4.15	Accepted
4.	Land ownership	171	86	23	18	2	300	4.35	Accepted
5.	Poor system of governance	112	143	-	25	20	300	4.00	Accepted
6.	Proliferation of fire arms	162	105	30	-	3	300	4.41	Accepted
7.	Corruption	124	100	50	24	2	300	4.06	Accepted
8.	Ethnicity / religious differences	137	162	1	-	-	300	4.45	Accepted
9.	Open grazing	156	140	-	4	-	300	4.49	Accepted

The result present in the table above shows that all the items were rated high by the respondents. This was state clearly from the respective mean score of 4.49, 4.45, 4.41, 4.35, 4.32, 4.17, 4.06, and 4.00 which are above the criterion of acceptance. It means that open grazing, ethnicity/religious differences, proliferation of firearms, land ownership, unemployment / poverty, weak security system, porous borders, corruption, poor system of governance, are the causes of insecurity in Mangu LGA of Plateau state.

RESEARCH QUESTION TWO

What are the effects of insecurity on education in Mangu LGA?

S/NO	STATEMENTS	SA	A	UN	D	SD	N	$\bar{X}$	Remarks
1.	Loss of Students and teachers lives	140	120	20	14	6	300	4.24	Accepted
2.	Closure of school	152	136	16	11	-	300	4.58	Accepted
3.	School dropout	148	123	-	20	9	300	4.27	Accepted
4.	Skipping of classes	124	100	50	24	2	300	4.06	Accepted
5.	Abducted of students	160	104	23	13	-	300	4.37	Accepted
6.	Disruption of academic calendar	171	102	-	21	6	300	4.37	Accepted
7.	Reduction in private investment in education	98	102	76	4	20	300	3.84	Accepted
8.	Inadequate funding of education	112	143	-	25	20	300	4.00	Accepted
9.	Destruction of schools infrastructure	118	114	60	4	4	300	4.2	Accepted

The analysis of results in table two above shows that all the items were scored above the criterion level of acceptance. This was shown by the mean rating of the respondents respectively 4.58, 4.37, 4.37, 4.27, 4.24, 4.12, 4.6, 4.00 and 3.84. This means that the effects of insecurity on the education of the child in mangu LGA included closure of schools, abduction of students, disruption of academic calendar, school dropout, loss of students and teachers lives, skipping of classes, destruction of infrastructure, inadequate finance of education and reduction of private investment in education

RESEARCH QUESTION THREE

What are the remedies to the security challenges in Mangu LGA?

S/NO	STATEMENTS	SA	A	UN	D	SD	N	$\bar{X}$	Remarks
1.	Creating employment for the youths	123	105	40	15	17	300	4.00	Accepted
2.	Equipping the security agencies	121	121	-	38	20	300	3.95	Accepted
3.	Abolishing of corruption	126	130	26	18	-	300	4.21	Accepted
4.	Good governance	135	122	22	11	7	300	4.24	Accepted
5.	Ban on open grazing	141	142	-	17	-	300	4.35	Accepted
6.	Forgiveness	133	106	20	23	18	300	4.04	Accepted
7.	Tolerance	128	111	-	41	20	300	3.95	Accepted
8.	Reconciliation	122	115	-	30	33	300	3.87	Accepted

The result presented in the above table shows that all the items in the table were highly rated by the respondents. This was clearly indicated from their respective mean rating scores of 4.35, 4.24, 4.21, 4.04, 4.00, 3.95, 3.95, and 3.87. It means that insecurity can be curbed when open grazing is banned, good governance is provided to the masses, corruption is abolished, there is spirit of forgiveness, employment is provided to the quality youths, the security agencies are well equip, tolerance and reconciliation.

Discussion

The result of the analysis of research question one shows that the causes of insecurity in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State include, Unemployment/Poverty, Land Ownerships, Weak Security System, Poor System of Governance, Proliferation of Fire Arms, Corruption among others. These findings are in consonants with Igbozor (2011) who notes that the failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address the challenges of poverty bordering the nation has made life burdensome and only the fittest survive. He further notes that poverty as well as poor governance contributes significantly to the rising wave of insecurity in Nigeria. Similarly, Nwalialor (2011) has attributed the causes of insecurity in

Nigeria to poor system of governance, weak judicial system, injustice, nepotism, tribalism and corruption among others. In the same vain, Alao, Atare and Alao (2012) linked banditry, terrorism and other criminal acts to poverty. Abdullahi and Terhemba (2014) reports that on September 18, military troops in a join operation with the department of state security (DSS) arrested two suspected Uclif arms dealers along Funtua-Gusau road with 1,479 rounds of 7.62mm (special) ammunition on their way to deliver the weapons to armed bandits.

The results of the analysis of the research question two indicates that effects of insecurity on education in Mangu LGA of Plateau State include loss of lives, destruction of school, infrastructures, closure of schools, disruption of academic activities, abduction of students and school dropout among others. These findings are in line with Adebakin (2012) and Babangida (2012) who noted that insecurity has led to kidnapping of lectures and students, for ransom, closure of schools, and reduction in admission of pupil and students into schools.

The result of research question three shows that the ban on open grazing, creation of employment opportunities, good governance, equipping the security agencies are ways of curbing insecurity in Mangu LGA of Plateau State. These findings are in consonants with Panle (2022) who observed that the deployment of troops to the affected areas, joint task force by the neighboring countries, declaration of state of emergency and encouragement of public and media to provide intelligence support will help in curbing insecurity in Nigeria.

Conclusion

The results of the findings have shown clearly that an insecure student perceives the school as a life threatening jungle, feels unsafe, unhappy, rejected, hostile and pessimistic,, shows sign of tension, guilt and tends to be neurotic and generally egocentric. Hence there is no need to expect any meaningful learning in an environment of chaos. For any meaningful educational development to take place in any part of the world, there must be peaceful consistence.

Recommendation

The paper recommended the following:

- Nigerian government should revisit poverty alleviation programs and create employment opportunities' for the unemployed youths.

- Through its legal system, Nigerian government should prosecute perpetrators of all conflicts irrespective of his/her position in the country.

- Anti-corruption war should be declare in Nigeria.

- Government should provide security officers with modern technology, effective training and motivation on the job. Like CCTV cameras etc.

- Monitoring of border activities by various agencies should be intensified so as to contain the proliferation of various arms and ammunition into the country.

- Government should deploy security personnel to guard all educational institutions in Nigeria.

- There should be re-orientation to inculcate ethical values and reverence for life and human right in the people and the need to coexist irrespective of religious or ethnic group(s).

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